

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6742

BILL NUMBER: SB 194

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 29, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Food, Farms, and Jobs.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Errington

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the Local and Organic Food and Farm Task Force to create a plan to expand and support a local and organic food system.

Effective Date: July 1, 2010.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Local and Organic Food and Farm Task Force will consist of 36 members including 4 specified state employees and 32 lay members to be appointed by the Governor. Lay members will be entitled to a per diem and a mileage reimbursement. State employees appointed to the task force are entitled to a mileage reimbursement. The Department of Agriculture (DoA) will staff the task force. The expenses of the task force are to be paid from money appropriated to the DoA. Total annual per diem and travel costs are estimated to be between \$17,280 to \$23,040. This estimate assumes all task force members would attend each meeting; costs could be less if conference calls were utilized.

The task force is required to develop a plan that includes policies and funding recommendations for expanding and supporting a local and organic food system. The bill specifies issues and subject matter that the plan is to address. An interim plan is to be submitted to the General Assembly by October 1, 2011, with the final plan due by October 1, 2012.

The bill requires that DoA staff the task force and provide for the per diem and travel costs within the existing level of appropriation for the Department. The bill's requirements are within the agency's routine administrative functions and should be able to be implemented with no additional appropriations, assuming near customary agency staffing and resource levels.

Background: The Indiana State Department of Health provided staff support to a similar commission in FY 2008 and FY 2009. The cost to the ISDH was the staff time spent preparing for and attending the commission meetings as well as subcommittee meetings, printing costs for agendas, minutes, and information distributed to the commission members, and consulting costs for editing the final report. Various ISDH staff averaged approximately 60 hours for each meeting of the commission and for subcommittee meetings.

As of October 2009, lay members would be entitled to \$50 per diem and \$0.40 mileage reimbursement. Assuming that the Task Force met 6-8 times during the year, per diem costs are estimated at \$9,600 to \$12,800. Assuming that the average mileage round trip for the meeting is 100 miles per lay member, mileage costs are estimated to be between \$7,680 to \$10,240. Total annual costs for lay members are estimated to be between \$17,280 to \$23,040. Mileage and per diem for lay members would be paid from the appropriations made to the Department of Agriculture.

The four state employees on the Local and Organic Food and Farm Task Force would also be eligible to receive mileage. If all meetings were held in Indianapolis at the State Office Building Complex, there would be no additional mileage expense. However, if meetings are held away from the state office buildings, additional mileage expenses may be incurred. Mileage for state employees would be paid from the appropriations made to the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Health, and the Family and Social Services Administration, respectively.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DoA; Department of Commerce; Family and Social Services Administration.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Kathy Norris, 317-234-1360.